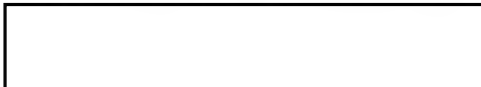


March 7, 1962

Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr.



Dear Dick:

This letter will acknowledge with very sincere regret the receipt of your letter offering your resignation as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. We have discussed this subject many times, and while I appreciate and understand your reasons for reaching the decision to engage in activities outside the Agency, nevertheless, I am compelled to repeat my feeling that the CIA will suffer a severe loss by your leaving. In this regard I express not only my personal views but the views of a vast number of men and women in the Agency who have worked with you and admire you greatly for your contribution to the national interest.

Moreover, this viewpoint is not confined to this Agency, but is a viewpoint that is expressed throughout government, and the consideration which led to President Kennedy's decision to award to you the National Security Medal. This action on his part represents in a tangible way the depth of his respect and admiration for you and for your contribution to the national interest.

For these reasons, Dick, I accept your resignation with great regret, but with the hope that the Agency and I, personally, will enjoy the benefit of your continued interest in our activities, and your advice and counsel which I consider of very great value.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

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John A. McCone
Director

JAM:at

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